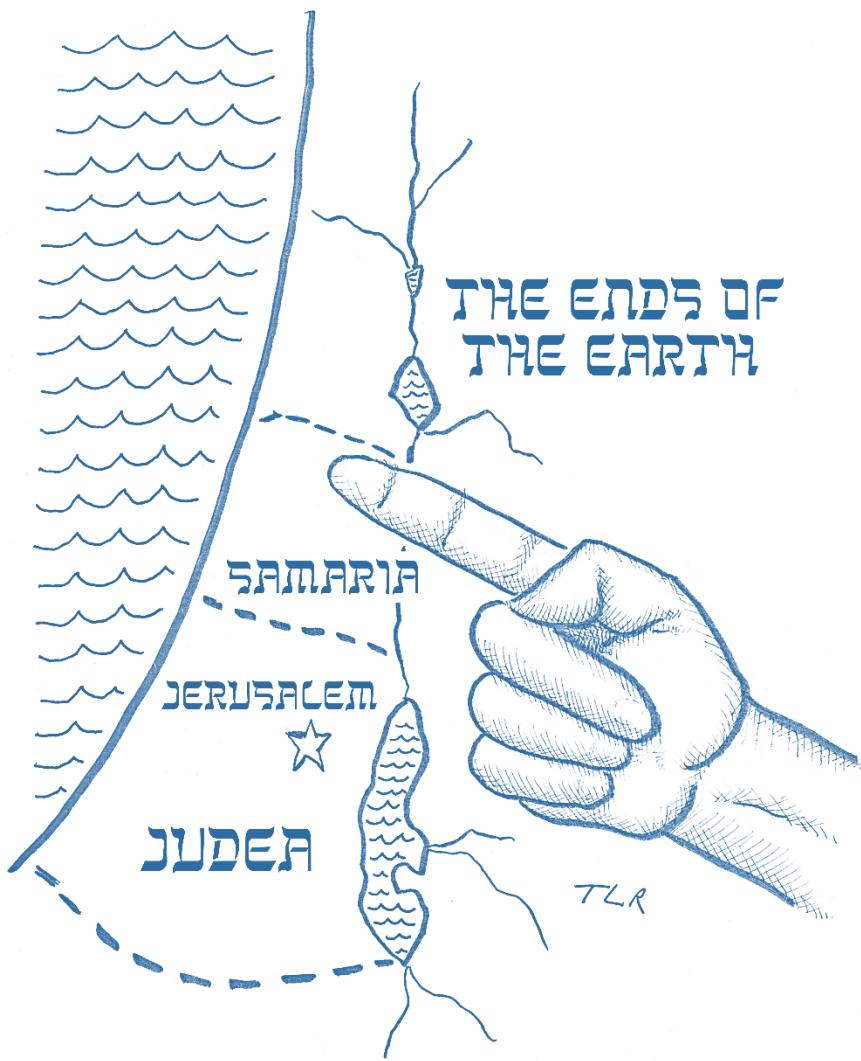


"TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH"



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth." — Acts 1:8 ESV

VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF ARMAGH, PA
MAY 26TH, AD 2024

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-sixth Day of May, *in the Year of our Lord 2024*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.

We continue our exciting and illuminating studies in Church History, looking at historic debates over the nature of God.

Morning Worship—9:30 AM.

Call to Worship:^{*} “*At the Cross*” (#153; Chorus ONLY).

Invocation.^{*}

Hymn: “*Fishers of Men*” (#468).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Acts I:I-II

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: “*Revive us Again*” (#44).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: “*Showers of Blessing*” (#209).

Dismissal of Youth for Children’s Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: “...AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES” (*Getting the Facts of the Gospel RIGHT—and SHARING them with Others; Pt. I*).

Closing Hymn:^{*} “*Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*” (#470).

Benediction.^{*}



Week of May 19 – May 25

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—12; Midweek-No Service;
Offering—\$559.00; Internet Archive Audio—34
Video (Rumble, YouTube, Facebook)—89

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE: 6:30 PM

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POST-OP UPDATES ON GUS

Mark Joubert (Gus' Dad)

5/20/24: An all too familiar sight...hard to see him sedated and intubated with tons of meds again, but he did well today.



We are praying for his blood pressure to normalize overnight. It's higher than we'd like it to be, but it's easy to push him into hypotension - so it's a hard line to walk. His bleeding from the chest seems to be slowing down significantly, but it's still a factor. They had to give him more blood products. Pray the bleeding stops. He's a tough kid. He's been eating through his sedation, stirring, raising his arms,

chewing on his pacifier. Unfortunately, now is the time to keep him still and asleep. Our team was impressed with how lively he has been this evening -- too lively! Pray he can calm down and rest overnight.

5/21/24: Gus had a calm day. Since the early morning hours, he's been relatively stable and well sedated, resting and



beginning the process of recovery. The chest drainage has slowed to a trickle. His X-ray this morning was a little cloudy (but it could have been a matter of penetration or exposure). An echocardiogram today didn't give

satisfying images (due to bandages in the way). Tomorrow, if his X-ray and echo are promising, the hope is that we will be able to extubate him in the next 24-48 hours. God is good.

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"**T**O BE A SOUL WINNER IS THE HAPPIEST THING IN THIS WORLD."

CHARLES SPURGEON

“...AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES”

(Introduction to the *Evangelism Explosion* method of sharing the Gospel)

There is an essential CONTENT of FAITH which men must HEAR, UNDERSTAND, AFFIRM, TRUST IN, and RECIEVE if they are to be saved! And most people today do not know this saving-content!

I. Intro: The necessity of Lay Evangelism. All disciples are to be able to give cogent reasons for the hope that is within them (1Pet. 3:15); hence, our common privilege & responsibility of evangelism.

A. MAKING DISCIPLES is the express command of Christ.

1. His FIRST instruction to His Disciples: *Mark 1:17*.
2. His LAST instructions on earth to His disciples: *Acts 1:8*.
3. The GREAT COMMISSION of Christ unto His Disciples: *Matt. 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, John 20:21, Acts 1:8*.

B. Question: “But HOW is this to be done—and by WHOM?

II. Satan’s masterful victory in shaping our modern mindset:

“Let only the generals fight the battles! The rest can sit-it-out!”

The idea has taken root that it is exclusively the task of the ordained clergy to fight the battle for the souls of men!

III. Some instructive history...

A. THE EARLY CHURCH: The above “leave-it-to-the-pros” mindset was NOT accepted in the first three centuries of Christianity!

i. Note that in Acts 8:4, after the scattering of the early church, everyone (“except the apostles”—who remained in Jerusalem; 8:1) was involved in the task of evangelizing (*euaggelizō*)! This was lay evangelism! Note the great results of their work: *Acts 11:19-21!!!*

ii. The Triumph of the Meek: Imperial Rome & lay evangelism.

Pagan Rome was conquered over a period of 300 years by a Gospel Message that was mostly shared by ordinary laypeople! Amazing!

B. The Dark Ages: a great divide develops between clergy & laity, fostering the idea that spiritual service & evangelism were solely the jurisdiction of an elite and professional “priestly” clerical-caste.

C. After Darkness, LIGHT! The Protestant Reformers emphasized the Priesthood of Every Believer (1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9), which affirms that every believer has **1) direct access to God**, **2) is an agent of mediation** (1Tim. 2:1), **3) renders spiritual sacrifices unto God** (Rom. 12:1), and **4) has a role in prophetic proclamation** (1 Pet. 2:9).

D. TODAY. We live in the aftermath of the Reformation, but still say: **“Let old ‘Clerical George’ do it!”** Thus, 99% of the Lord’s Army—i.e., Laymen—are mostly AWOL from the battlefield, and seldom even dare to invite potential prospects to church to hear the Gospel!